SHARE-CROPPERS VOICE

VOL. 1 PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS' UNION NO. 1
EDITED BY UNION MEN FOR UNION MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
PRICE 1¢

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE SHARE-CROPPERS' VOICE is the official organ of THE SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS' UNION. It is edited by Union men for the purpose of supplying the members and friends of the Union with reliable and accurate information regarding those matters which are of concern and interest to the Union. THE SHARE-CROPPERS VOICE will be published weekly and through its pages you will discover what every Union man and woman ought to know. From time to time we will print articles which have appeared in national magazines about the Union. The Editors are anxious to have Union members contribute letters, articles, songs or what-have-you. They promise to print as many such statements as space will permit.

THE SHARE-CROPPERS' VOICE is your paper. Make it yours by contributing to it. It costs only one penny and every member should have a copy. Buy several copies and help distribute THE SHARE-CROPPERS' VOICE over the entire country.

America is awakening to the terrible plight of the Southern Share-cropper. Millions of people are keeping their eyes on the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union for they know that in the Union lies the hope of millions of exploited tenant farmers, share-croppers and farm laborers. It is our job to keep the eyes of the American people on Arkansas and the whole plantation system until this blight is removed from the face of the earth. THE SHARE-CROPPERS' VOICE WILL HERALD THE TYRANNY AND OPPRESSION OF THE PLANTATION SYSTEM TO THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH. Sooner or later this semi-feudal, semi-slavery plantation system will be abolished. It is not going to be an easy task as every man, woman and child in the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union knows from hard experience. But it will go. When this blight on American civilization has been blotted out there will songs of praise and thanksgiving from the lips of every true American. The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union is engaged in a great struggle for human liberation from the tyranny and oppression of the plantation system. We invite all loyal Americans to join us in this crusade for human justice.

To the brave men, women and children who are united together in the Southern Tenant Farmers Union we send you our greetings. Most of you are living under a great terror inflicted upon you by your would-be masters. Most of you are hungry, cold and poorly clad. Many of you are sick. Many of you have been evicted from the miserable shanties in which you live because you joined the Union. Many of you have been driven from your homes and your families. Many of you have been robbed, whipped, killed. These are hard things to bear. Do not despair, do not give up. Know that justice and righteousness will prevail. Stand by the Union. Build it into a mighty organization that we and our children may dwell together in a land of freedom, plenty and liberty.

SHARE-CROPPERS UNION CALLS STRIKE

The Share-Cropper Union of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi set May Day

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for the workers in the cotton fields to lay down their hoes and plows until the landlords pay a minimum wage of $1.00 per day for a 10 hour day. It is hard to believe that men and women who labor in the fields of King Cotton and who live in the richest country on the face of the earth should have to beg their "masters" to give them 10c an hour for their grinding toil. Less than $30.00 a month to feed, clothe and house a family! But every King has his slaves and King Cotton is no different from any other king. This strike involves 10,000 families in the heart of the cotton belt. Ten thousand former slaves are fighting for their right to be men- free men. When a man makes up his mind that he is through being a slave and stands on his own two legs like a man and demands the things that a man ought to have he is no longer a slave. Let us have more Free Men and Women!

THE NEW YORK TIMES SENDS RAYMOND DANIEL INTO THE SHARE-CROPPER COUNTRY HIS ARTICLES EXPOSE CONDITIONS IN ARKANSAS

Raymond Daniel, one of THE NEW YORK TIMES' most reliable reporters spent over a week in the share-cropper country of northeastern Arkansas investigating conditions among the plantation workers. Daniel interviewed numerous plantation owners, business men and workers. He also interviewed Mr. Fred Stafford, Rev. Abner Sage, Mr. A.C.Spellings and others prominent in fighting the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union. For the benefit of the members of the Union and for the enlightment of the entire world, Christian and otherwise, THE SHARE-CROPPERS' VOICE will carry a large part of Mr. Daniel's articles in the TIMES each week. In reading these articles remember that The New York Times is a conservative big-city newspaper. It is not a radical paper by any token whatever but the Editors of The New York Times believe in printing 'everything that's fit to print". The Editors of the New York Times believed that the people of the United States should know what was actually happening in the land of King Cotton. You'll find the whole story beginning in the April 15th. issue of The New York Times and portions of the story in this and other issue of THE SHARE-CROPPERS VOICE.

KING COTTON CELEBRATES HAS COTTON CARNIVAL IN MEMPHIS

Memphis is all astir with preparation for the Cotton Carnival to be held shortly. There will be a great parade with expensive floats. There will be big dinners, parties, dances and balls. There will be speeches made by brokers, bankers and other thieves. There will be hundreds of well dressed men and beautifully gowned women. Will there be any share-croppers, tenant farmers or general farm workers at King Cotton's Carnival? Have you ever seen any ragged, hungry slaves at a King's Court? The Editors of THE SHARECROPPERS' VOICE guess that Memphis would slide straight into the Mississippi if some share-croppers tried to enter the parade. But why shouldn't they? Well, this Carnival is put on by the big Boys who own King Cotton and think they own the share-croppers. They think they made cotton King. Did they ever plant a seed, chop a weed, plow a furrow, pick a pound of cotton or do any of the thousand and one things that King Cotton demands of his slaves? No! Who did then? THE SHARE-CROPPERS OF THE COTTON COUNTRY MADE COTTON KING. They raised him to his throne but that's then now. While they raise enough cotton to clothe the world they and their children shiver for lack of cotton garments. Beds without sheets, blankets or pillow cases, windows without curtains, tables without covers, wash racks without towels, BACKS WITHOUT CLOTHING: That's the Sharecropper, King Cotton's Slave. Will it ever be thus? No! thunders the members of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

PASS THIS COPY OF THE SHARE-CROPPERS' VOICE TO A FRIEND WHO HASN'T ONE

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CHURCMEN SEND MONEY AND CLOTHES TO HELP WEEV
SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS' UNION RECEIVES HELP FROM RELIGIOUS GROUPS THROUGHOUT UNITED STATES. CHURCH EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE THRU REV. JAMES MYERS AND REV. WILLIAM SPOFFORD MAKES LARGE CONTRIBUTION.

Several hundred dollars in cash and dozens of packages of clothing have been received by the officers of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union from the Church Emergency Relief Committee. The money has been used to buy food, clothing and other necessities for the stricken members of the Union. Scores of families throughout northeastern Arkansas have received clothes through the various relief committees set up to administer the relief. Without the relief made possible through Rev. Myers' and Spofford's Committee scores of families would have gone completely without food.

It is a source of great inspiration and encouragement to the officers and membership of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union that so many religious-minded people are actively participating in their struggles in this way. THE SHARE-CROOPERS VOICE believes that these good people are really giving the true expression to Christianity. When Christians begin to participate in the struggles of the workers who are trying to build a society in which true Christianity can function then Jesus Christ begins to live in our midst again. These people are clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, ministering to the sick, speaking and living a gospel of neighborliness and love: this is true Christianity.

THE SHARE-CROPPERS' VOICE wishes to thank all those who have contributed funds or clothing to the UNION.

EDITORIAL

DANGEROUS MEDDLERS--WHO ARE THEY?

The Editors of THE SHARE-CROPPERS' VOICE have recently received a printed statement entitled,"The Meddlers-Who They Are". The statement was signed by "The Better America Committee" and was widely distributed thrucut this section. The statement was aimed at the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and purported to give reliable information about some of the leaders of the Union. As we all expected it ras literally frothing with mis-information. The authority for most of the statements in this circular was none other than Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling of Chicago. Mrs. Dilling wrote a book called the "Red Net-work" in which she aimed to list all of the "Reds" and "Radicals"in the country. Mrs. Dilling lists in her "Red Network" such outstanding public personages as Fiorello LaGuardia, Mayor of New York City and Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, wife of the President of the United States. Mrs. Roosevelt a radical! well, well, well, We'd have never guessed it if the "Better America Committee" hadn't told us about the "Red Network".

Isn't it rather strange that if Jennie Lee, Norman Thomas, Mary Hillyer, Roger Baldwin, Lucien Koch and Howard Kester are as horrible as they are pictured to be by "The Better America Committee" and Mrs. Dilling that they would be found in such distinguished company as that of Mayor LaGuardia and the wife of the President? Think it over. We thought you'd laugh.

Well, anyway the share-croppers of northeastern Arkansas will not be fooled by this sort of tripe about those who have been their long, tried and trusted friends. Mr. Planter, the share-cropper ain't as dumb as you think they are, oh no! They know who their enemies are and well do they know. They knew that those who published all this monkey-business about their friends are their chief enemies. They know too, that those who had so much to say about "Meddlers" and signed themselves as "The Better America Committee" have proven by their words and actions that they are anything else but "Better" Americans. They know who has broken the laws of the land and made the life of the share-cropper one continious hell.

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In northeastern Arkansas a reign of terror has been inaugurated by an illegal minority of Ku Kluxers and Vigilantes. Democracy-if there ever was any- has utterly disappeared. Innocent men, women and children have been assaulted, mobbed and beaten with pistols, clubs and flashlights. Officers, members and friends of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union have been illegally arrested and jailed. They have been mobbed and beaten. Homes and churches have been riddled with bullets. Whole families have been driven from their homes. Men and women have been shot. Every act of the calendar of terrorism has been practiced against the members of the Union. Starvation, eviction, attempted lynchings, death threats, attempted murders. Have these self-styled "Better Americans" done anything to put a stop to these acts of tyranny and terror?

The right to peaceably assemble, to speak one's own mind and conscience and to petition the government for a redress of grievance has ever been a bulwark of American democracy. Who broke up our meetings? Who forbade us to speak in Marked Tree, Lepanto and other places? Who drove our distinguished guests from England out of Marked Tree? Well you know. If these self-styled "Better"Americans (a lot of horse feathers we think) really represent the most decent things in American life why don't they denounce those who have terrorised northeastern Arkansas with their night riding, who have driven law abiding citizens from Poinsett County, who have thrown poor families into the highway to starve, who have whipped, beaten mobbed and terrorised thousands of members of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, who have trampled to the ground all of the guarantees of a democratic government. DENOUNCE THESE ACTS OF TERROR AND TYRANNY IF YOU MEAN BUSINESS. IF YOU ARE "BETTER" AMERICANS STAND FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL AND DECENT THINGS IN AMERICAN LIFE. MAKE ARKANSAS SAFE FOR TRUE AMERICANS!

Who are these self styled "Better"Americans. They are those who have brought about the reign of terror in Arkansas. Oh, yes we know all about you. You hate real democracy, don't you. You hate the idea of freedom of speech, assemblage and all the rest that goes with democratic government. If Thomas Jefferson or Abraham Lincoln were alive you'd want to lynch them too, wouldn't you. You've been running Arkansas and the whole cotton country to suit yourselves for a long time. Just for your own benefit and comfort. Now that the share-croppers, whom Rev. Sage describes as being "a lazy and shiftless lot", and whom you have disfranchised with a nasty poll tax, want to really democratize Arkansas and make it a decent place for human beings to live in, you "Better" Americans come along shouting and squeaking about "Anarchy" and "Revolution". We share-croppers are sick and tired of all this rot about "Anarchy". Every time somebody helps us he's an "anarchist" but every time somebody helps you with your tyranny and terror he's a "better American". We know what's going on. All this squalling and squeaking about "Anarchy" and Revolution is just another way of trying to cover up your system of thievery and robbery.

Our friends are accused of being "meddlers". All right, "meddlers" with whom and with what? They are called "meddlers" because they are interested in the share-croppers whom the planters want to exploit and rob. They are "meddlers" because they are helping the share-croppers get a real "New Deal". They are "meddlers" because they are interferring with the illegal privileges the planters and others have assumed over the lives of thousands of defenseless farm workers. They are "meddlers" because they believe literally that there is no reason under the sun for the appalling poverty and misery that one sees all about him in Arkansas and the cotton country generally. They are "meddlers" because they want to see poverty and slavery and ignorance end because they believe that all men are brothers and no one has the right to exploit or enslave his brother.

We share-croppers know who the real "meddlers" are. We know that those who keep us in poverty and want are the real "meddlers". Those who deprive us of our rights, who rob us of our just wages, who rob us at the company stores, who force our women and children to be grinding toil and ignorance and misery, THEY ARE THE REAL MEDDLERS! They not only meddle with our lives but with the lives of our children. Children yet unborn will have their [illegible]